

## **Kingston Conservation Advisory Council**

**Minutes 3.10.10**

**6:36 pm start**

### **I. Board Members Introductions**

- a. Julie Noble
- b. Valeria Gheorghiu
- c. Judith Deming
- d. Felipa Gaudet
- e. Elizabeth Higgins
- f. Gregg Swanzey
- g. Allison Taylor
- h. Also present:
  - i. Heather Ohlson Youth Leadership Development Institute
  - ii. Sophie Dolamore – part of same
  - iii. Bill More
  - iv. Casey Schwarz

### **II. Public Comment - none**

- III. Approval of Minutes** – Overview of minutes, need more summarizing, not notes. Two versions were sent out. Monday's are overridden. Today's are those to be reviewed. If no action or no contact was made, then do not put in names. Write in shorthand that need to contact other people. Discussion as to how minutes will be written. Write in the people have expressed willingness to participate. Others are also being contacted. Motion by Gregg Swanzey: to revise Section II as per descriptions above. Allison seconds it. Motion by Elizabeth Higgins: Minutes shall reflect highlight of discussions, decisions made and next steps. Allison seconds it.

### **IV. Old Business**

- a. Climate Smart Green Jobs Communities Pledge
  - i. Focus Group outreach and presentations updates
    1. Overview of who was reached out to and who expressed interest.
    2. Nordica
    3. Alice Weiss
    4. Gathered emails for mass email by tomorrow. Need everyone's contacts within the next couple of days, by tomorrow, of those who have decided they will participate. Send another email to them.
    5. Valeria presented to the Kingston Uptown Business Association – three people signed on to focus groups, including Tom Hoffay.
    6. Hugh Cummings – very interested
    7. Judith may be able to do the next Rondout Business Association.
    8. NAACP Poughkeepsie – does not have a chapter in Kingston currently. Eloise will call her and give us a list of local pastors to work with in Kingston.
    9. Emilie Hauser is interested.
    10. Jennifer Schwartz also very interested and has ideas and process.
    11. Bill Cox at TSEC – The Solar Energy Consortium also interested.
    12. Lynn Woods interested.
    13. Kingston business: Solar Tech Renewables to manufacture – Earth Kind is selling renewables. Call Chris White in Maurice Hinchey's office. Valeria will do.
    14. American Legion will have representative for us both sons group and American legion.

15. John Anthony Bruno at Red Cross – can't do it himself but can probably get 2 volunteers.
16. Joanne Dayton, Dixon Onderdonk at Kingston School – both interested, may be a student project.
17. Kingston Block and Masonry is also in.
18. Melissa Everett:
  - a. How to coordinate Green Corridor into the Pledge.
  - b. New York Solar Industries Association made a road map for PV. Can access that.
19. Question: Has anyone reached out to Economic Development, or March Gallagher from the County or Lance Madison or Paul Rakov UCDC – Elizabeth will contact them.
20. Send Email contacts to Julie for distribution list.
- ii. Review Pledge Procedures
  1. Valeria gave overview of procedures
- iii. Agenda, plan for focus group meeting
  1. What will the agenda look like?
  2. Three options: April 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> - 5 – 7 pm.
  3. Location: Common Council Chambers
  4. Question: film it and have public access show it? – Better for general public meeting.
  5. How do we get people in the public involved?
    - a. Intro to the Pledge
    - b. Why we contacted you – action plan
    - c. Procedures overview
    - d. Focus Group – we ask them for 10 month commitment for action plan for City.
    - e. Reach out to Community how? General Discussion - Facilitation – Valeria could draw up a Train the Trainers on facilitation techniques for group.
    - f. Break out Sessions to try out facilitation technique, and further discuss what is already being done in this venue and how to coordinate. Those who may already be involved in action steps may not need too much planning.
  6. Allison makes a motion to have a committee meeting to follow up on this. Seconded by Felipa.
  7. Julie will send out overview e-mail and invite to group again on dates once she's received all contacts by Friday.
- b. CAC Website:
  - i. Logo decision – view logos- general discussion on which one is better. Number 2 wins, with extended tower and Kingston CAC. Take # 2 with varieties for next vote.
  - ii. Facebook page going first. Goal to go live – put it up pieces at a time. Start with home page, then pledge, then individual shots or group picture. Bring in pictures. Scan or email photo.

## **V. New Business**

- a. Fundraising brainstorm (15 minutes) – Valeria offered her Ink cartridge recycling vendor number to fundraiser to be members of the NYSSAC, etc. They offer pre-paid package slips.
- b. Judith's offered her house for stockpile of ink cartridges.
- c. Green Justice Project –
  - i. Request by Valeria for letter of support to turn King's Inn Motel into possible site for green jobs prison reentry non-profit. Will ask Mayor for access to building for inspection and assessment for retrofit potential, weatherization, etc. Free inspection.

- ii. Other suggested buildings: Catholic School to convert at St. Peter's – upgrade to convert it into Migrant Education Child Care Center.
- iii. Discussion as to suitability of King's Inn Motel. What is the City's vision? What is the Midtown Business Association's vision? Maintenance was difficult. City may be already be committed to taking it down. If not immediately interested in taking it down, retrofit and upgrade. There may be other buildings that have long term vision. What are the alternatives? What's recyclable and what's recoverable in the demolition of the building? Also green jobs?
- iv. Motion by Elizabeth, seconded by Gregg: Julie will write CAC letter of support to work with group to find appropriate city building for program. CAC letter of support.

## **VI. Announcements/Communications**

- a. Next regular Monthly Board Meeting, April 14, 2010
- b. Official Communication from Arlene Rion, Clerk of the City
  - i. re: domestic animals.
  - ii. Stray and feral cat problem. Gave us 5 codes from other towns.
  - iii. Discussion at a future time.
  - iv. Get other groups, e.g. ASPCA/Brian Shapiro, in community working on this already for their input.
  - v. Put it on agenda. Allison Volunteers to do research.
- c. Valeria will create short version of barnyard animal legislation for outreach.
- d. PACE conference this weekend.
- e. [www.cred.columbia.edu/guide](http://www.cred.columbia.edu/guide) The Psychology of Climate Change Communication.
- f. Valeria to email Felipa minutes. Speaking at certain point.

## **VII. Reports**

- a. EMC report (no report, meeting cancelled)
- b. Planning Board Meeting Update
  - i. Judith Deming.
  - ii. Sue Cahill came out and recognized her as part of the CAC, and asked her to sit up front.
  - iii. Where can we advise? Ask questions? Where can we make recommendations to the planning board?
  - iv. Decide as a group on how to comment, then more formal recommendations. Review agenda prior, report back, then come up with recommendations and that person shall follow up with planning board. To what extent can we have individual questions and comments during the planning board meeting?
  - v. Put priority on making recommendations and create criteria as to what to make recommendations on.
    - 1. E.g., Building – look at lighting – has to be designed with shields, and if anyone complains, then put the shield up. That is inefficient.
    - 2. Installation of device goes to code enforcement.
  - vi. Playing it by ear, commissioners should review agenda and communicate with rep before hand. At some future point we will come up with priorities for recommendation.
- c. General Government/Auditing/Public Safety Committee Update
  - i. Mostly everyone was receptive.
  - ii. New Alderman – Andi Turco-Levin spoke against the pledge. Accusation that we misrepresented the pledge. Can we reach out to Common Council to alleviate this? Tom Hoffay said reach out to Andy. In General the Common Council supports the pledge. The few anti-pledge folks will talk badly about it. Can we address this from the beginning?
  - iii. Constituency will tell them to support it, they'll listen to it. Provide supporters with their own speaking points, PR package. Give the yellow cards to each common council member.
  - iv. Green Jobs component missing. Put three together.

- v. Julie will include DEC, resolution, pledge, etc. Conservationist as well.
- vi. Freeman June of last year, published editorial that was wonderful. Include this in PR package.
- vii. Felipa will start up Facebook page, add links.
- viii. Come up with sound bytes to combat criticism.
  - 1. Focus on their job duties anyway.
  - 2. Take the pledge language out of it, city employees are doing things that fall within the scope of their duties anyway, nothing changes.
  - 3. We will fund ourselves.
  - 4. We are bringing outside expertise to the city for free to do the work with them.
  - 5. County has Green Innovation Strategy as well.
- d. Public Comment – Youth Leadership Development Institute/YWCA – develops community access and citizenship. Learning the process and meet quarterly, then youth become part of non-profit boards across county. [www.YLDI.com](http://www.YLDI.com).
- e. Student position for CAC is still open. Sophie Dolamore left contact info. Gave her an official application.

**VIII. Adjournment - 9:25 pm**